



Water Table - The level at which the water fills up below the ground surface. If you dig a hole in the ground, at some point you will reach water, this point is on the water table.

Precipitation (P) - The amount of rainfall and snow on the drainage basin.

Evaporation (E) - The amount of water that changes to water vapor and is lost to the atmosphere.

Evapotranspiration (ET) - Sum of water lost to the atmosphere from evaporation and transpiration (water lost through plant leaves).

Clay layers - Water cannot pass easily through clay layers and thus tends to flow around them. Water may build up or perch on the top of clay layers. Sometimes this leads to the formation of a spring.

Flow lines - The direction of ground water flow is shown by the arrows. Ground water may transport pollutants from septic tanks and fertilizers placed on lawns into Crystal Lake. The ground water flows in different directions depending upon location and time of year. Ground water always flows down an energy gradient but can sometimes flow uphill as shown.